

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06
PRS-01 /060 W
-----111355Z 123035 /43

R 101715Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1833
AMCONSUL BELIZE
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
PANCANAL
USCINCSO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PN, BH, GT
SUBJECT: TORRIJOS VISIT TO BELIZE

SUMMARY: TORRIJOS' VISIT MAY 8 WITH PREMIER PRICE OF BELIZE WAS
APPARENTLY PLANNED, NOT CASUAL AND SETS THE SEAL ON PANAMANIAN
SUPPORT FOR BELIZE'S INDEPENDENCE.

THE PANAMNIAN GOVERNMENT HAS
APPARENTLY DECIDED THAT GUATEMALA'S IRE IS A SMALL PRICE TO
PAY FOR GETTING RIGHT WITH THE THIRD WORLD AND OTHERS ON THE
BELIZE ISSUE. END SUMMARY.

1. TORRIJOS' DESCRIPTION OF HIS MAY 8 STOPOVER IN BELIZE ON THE
WAY BACK FROM CANCUN AS A "TECHNICAL STOP WHICH TURNED INTO A
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WORKING SESSION" IS DISINGENUOUS. THE VISIT AND TALKS WITH
PREMIER PRICE WERE ALMOST CERTAINLY PLANNED. WHILE TORRIJOS

MAY NOT HAVE DECIDED TO CONFIRM HIS VISIT TO BELIZE UNTIL IN
CANCUN, THE IDEA WAS NOT HATCHED ON THE SPUR OF THE MOMENT.
TWICE LAST WEEK EMBASSY OFFICERS WERE QUERIED BY FOREIGN MINISTRY
OFFICIALS ABOUT U.S. POLICY ON THE BELIZE QUESTION , ONE EVEN

SPECULATED THAT TORRIJOS MIGHT GO TO BELIZE. SUCH FOREIGN
MINISTRY INTEREST IN BELIZE IS, TO PUT IT MILDLY, UNUSUAL.

2. ACCORDING TO A PRESS INTERVIEW HERE ON HIS RETURN, TORRIJOS
CAUTIONED PRICE NOT TO SEEK SUPPORT FOR BELIZE'S INDEPENDENCE
FROM THE SOCIALIST BLOC. TORRIJOS SAID HE PERSUADED PRICE THAT A
VISIT TO FIDEL CASTRO WOULD BE "INCONVENIENT AT THE PRESENT".
TORRIJOS ALSO REMARKED ON "THE HEMISPHERE'S ATTITUDE OF
INDIFFERENCE AND IGNORANCE" TO BELIZEAN DESIRE TO EXERCISE
UN-SANCTIONED RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION.

3. PRICE, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, STATED THAT IF
BELIZE CAUSE RECEIVES FAVORABLE ATTENTION AT NEXT OAS GENERAL
ASSEMBLY, HIS CONTACT WITH SOCIALIST BLOC "WILL NOT BE NECESSARY".
PRICE HOPED THAT PRESIDENTS OF VENEZUELA, COSTA RICA, COLOMBIA
AND BOLIVIA WILL JOIN CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES IN SUPPORTING BELIZE
INDEPENDENCE.

4. PRESS REPORT REFERS TO "IMPORTANT AGREEMENTS ON ECONOMIC
AFFAIRS AND ESPECIALLY IN INTERNATIONAL POLICY" ACHIEVED IN
BELMOPAN THROUGH EFFORTS OF PANAMANIAN MINISTERS OF
PRESIDENCY AND FOREIGN RELATIONS AND TORRIJOS' PERSONAL ADVISOR
"RORY" GONZALEZ. WE HAVE NO DETAILS SO FAR ON THESE AGREEMENTS.

5. FOR GUATEMALA. WOULD BE INTERESTED IN GUATEMALAN REACTION
TO TRIP AND STATEMENTS.

6. COMMENT. IN EMBASSY OPINION TORRIJOS MADE BELIZE TRIP AND
SAW THAT IT WAS PUBLICIZED FOR TWO REASONS:
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- BY ALIGNING ITSELF WITH BELIZE, PANAMA EXPECTS TO GAIN

SUPPORT FOR ITS CANAL "CAUSE" IN REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL
FORA.

- PANAMA BELIEVES THAT SUPPORT FOR GUATEMALAN POSITION
IN LATIN AMERICA IS ON THE DECLINE.

GONZALEZ

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INDEPENDENCE, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, SELFDETERMINATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PANAMA03312
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Film Number: D770165-1188
Format: TEL
From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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To: STATE BELIZE
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